



ExxonMobil Continues to Support the Mindsinaction STEAM Program (Namibia)

Exposure to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) education at an early age, will play a crucial role in equipping primary and secondary school learners with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in a technology-driven world.

Recognizing the significance of STEM/STEAM education in fostering innovation and driving economic growth, ExxonMobil, a global leader in the energy industry, partnered with the Namibia Scientific Society (NSG) and Mindsinaction to promote and provide access to STEAM educational opportunities in Namibia. The partnership highlights an ongoing commitment to fostering STEM/STEAM education and empowering learners with 21st century skills.

For 2023, the STEAM Partnership Project will expand to include the Kunene, Khomas and Omaheke regions to expose a hundred more learners to hands-on STEAM educational activities.

The initiative aims to bridge the gender gap in STEAM fields by providing girls with hands-on experiences in various STEAM disciplines.

Through the Mindsinaction STEAM program, learners are exposed to five practical modules in robotics, coding, electronics, 3D printing, and prototype development. A hands-on learning kit and a laptop per group of 4 learners are used to facilitate the skills transfer.

Covering over 20 hours per module, participants learned about motors, sensors (colour, ultrasonic, humidity, force), basic electrical circuits, coding, story-telling, gaming, CAD, 3D printing, problem identification, and problem solving.

The exposure to these skills improves self-confidence and critical thinking abilities as observed from the pre- and post-evaluation results.

The emphasis on a hands-on approach allowed learners to actively engage with the concepts, fostering a deep understanding and igniting their curiosity and passion for STEAM subjects.

The program not only provides technical skills but also promotes active thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and creativity—essential attributes for success in the 21st-century workforce.

After exposure to motors, sensors, and micro-controllers, the learners open up to scientific -

ways of thinking, including setting their own tasks and evaluating their own success.

At the end of the eighth workshop, all participants could write a computer program to get input from sensors and activate action with motors with ease.

Most learners showed a positive attitude during the program and indicated a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to learn while having so much fun.

The sponsorship from ExxonMobil was renewed in March 2023, to enable the Mindsinaction STEAM program to reach more learners, both boys and girls in remote and underserved communities, where access to quality STEAM education resources may be limited.

ExxonMobil's support facilitated the empowerment of Namibian youth, ensuring that they are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to profit from new opportunities in STEAM fields.

